

The Desert Whispers

from Johnson Valley



VOL. 2, NO. 4

THE MOJAVE DESERT, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 28, 1968

Neighborhood Happenings . . .

By Aileen DeVictoria

December arrived with the flu bug hitting many Johnson Valley residents, including the Piners, the Petersons, and Marie Stanley.

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A very Merry Christmas and a joyful, peaceful Happy New Year to all our neighbors and friends in Johnson Valley and everywhere.

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Fire struck Marion Page's home on December 3, gutting the building. Neighbors responded to help fight the fire, saving the walls.

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We're happy to hear that Mr. Calender is home from the hospital recuperating. He suffered a heart-attack a few weeks ago.

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The Desert Ears elected new officers and celebrated the holiday season at the December meeting, with a gala time enjoyed by all, especially the youngsters who received a gift from the club.

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Goldie Hopper is back in the valley after an extended vacation in Ohio, where she visited her son Frederick and his family, and friends throughout the Buckeye State.

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Terry Tiggeman, son of Howard and Marilyn, celebrated his 21st birthday December 8, at their home in Long Beach.

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Ohma Head and Bea Roush again enjoying the mineral baths at Desert Hot Springs.

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There were 15 inches of snow in the valley at this time last year, but apparently such is not scheduled for this year, as residents prepare for the holidays.

The Drorbaughs will entertain son Donald and family, and daughter Carol and son.

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Dean and Kathy Peterson celebrated their third wedding anniversary on December 3.

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Happy to report Lola Barnes is recuperating from surgery at the Methodist Hospital in Arcadia.

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Dick Reeley observed his December 9 birthday at the Chisel Inn.

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Virgil Drorbaugh celebrated his birthday on Thanksgiving Day, with Myrna at her sister's in Oakland.

—A.D.

Valley Vista Views

Eva and Dan Jarvis hosted five airplanes from the Pasadena City College Flying Club Sunday, Dec. 8, with 20 members including three woman pilots.

All enjoyed a barbecue during the afternoon. Sid Orloff, club sponsor and adviser, arrived first. Occasion of the fly-in was a scavenger hunt, and flyers were required to locate hidden instructions at Apple Valley and Hesperia Airports to locate the unidentified air strip in Johnson Valley.

Other visitors at the Jarvises included their daughter Ann, and her daughters, Valerie and Debbie; also a granddaughter, Karan Smith.

On December 1, Major Donald K. Wilson and A. Kenneth Johnson flew in and landed at the Valley Vista Air Strip. Major Wilson is commanding officer of the Civil Air Patrol Squadron 17, a search and rescue unit. Johnson is a warrant officer, and is testing officer of the squadron.

Jerry Vassman and Joe Fisher, and J. L. Bootman with friend Bob Davis flew in during the month. All plan to return, they said.

Fire Truck Purchase Probed by Rescuers

Purchase of a water tank truck to be used in fighting fires in Johnson Valley was discussed by the Search and Rescue unit at the December meeting. A used vehicle is available, it was reported.

Rescue funds are not sufficient at this time to purchase the truck, insurance, and license, according to the discussion.

The Johnson Valley Improvement Association was queried on the possibility of assisting in the purchase and maintenance, and while agreeing on the need, also lacks funds at this time.

A disastrous fire this month, in which a home was gutted, indicates that "it can happen here," and the need is recognized.

The Search and Rescue group is also investigating purchase of warning signals to be used with flares at the scene of a highway accident, and purchase of a master first aid kit.

The next meeting of the Search and Rescue is scheduled for January 11 at the Chisel Inn.

Dime-a-Dip Slated for January Fourth

A dime-a-dip will be held prior to the January 4 meeting of the Johnson Valley Improvement Association.

Mrs. Gust Valentine is in charge.

The public is invited.

Those who wish may bring a vegetable dish, salad, baked beans, or dessert, Mrs. Valentine said.

Serving will begin at 5 p.m., with the regular business meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in the community building on Larrea Road.

Regular business includes reports on telephones, roads, the proposed water system, and any items of interest to the community.

The proposed water system is being studied by government agencies, according to the last report from Walter Remy, chairman of the Bighorn Rural Water District.

About This Issue

This month the Desert Whispers is being printed with the hope of eventually printing every issue. We invite your comments and suggestions.

A Happy New Year

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COMMUNITY-MINDED?

Join the Johnson Valley Improvement Association. Promote orderly growth in the valley. Meets the first Saturday of the month in the community building on Larrea Road.

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Yucca Valley, California 92284

SHOUTS

and

WHISPERS

Edna Hodges spent a few days visiting her children in the city. She was surprised on her return to find Santa had left a maple dining room set. Daughter Darleene and her husband George McClure directed Santa to the chimney.

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The Lafoons enjoyed a ten-day vacation at their cabin in Johnson Valley.

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Visiting Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Jacobs for the Thanksgiving holiday were Richard and Jerri Van Steenberg from Scottsville, Nebraska. Richard, Mildred's brother, is a criminal attorney.

Mildred's mother, Mrs. Guy Van Steenberg, is visiting for two weeks. They were joined by Mrs. Lola Lisman, from Colfax, Calif. for the first week. Mr. and Mrs. Dean J. Boster and son, from Long Beach, also visited. Mrs. Boster is Mildred's sister.

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Mr. and Mrs. Otto Hanson of Laguna Beach were up for a week.

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Morey and Tiny Randall returned from Yucca, Ariz. for a few days to visit old friends here.

WATER DELIVERY

**Jim and Glenna's
SKYROOM WATER
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KMX 5679
CB Ch. 9

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Fringe-Footed Fellow

The ocellated sand lizard lives in the sand dunes. It has speckled markings giving it the appearance of sand. Its nose is blunt and shovel-shaped for digging. It is beautiful, velvet-smooth, and fringe-footed, and possibly the most successful vertebrate resident of the desert. The fringes on its toes help it to "swim" itself to shelter underneath loose sand. The fringe resembles long pointed scales on the underside of the foot, and also help the lizard to walk on sand. The valve-like fringe folds along the toe when the foot is pulled forward under the sand, and then expands as it is thrust backward. The footprints are broad.

The lizard blends in with the sand, and where iron content colors a dune pink, the lizards are a rosy hue to match.

—from "Southwest Desert
Wonderland," by Norman
Hammond Wakeman

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In Memoriam

The following poem was written by a talented teen-ager. Young David Ze Zula wrote the poem in 1966, at the age of 19. He died this year at the age of 21, from injuries suffered in a car accident. The poem was read as his eulogy at the funeral, November 8.

THE DISCOVERY

My heart's season is winter, as it rains without so it rains within.
As a tired limb bows with the weight of white snow, so my soul bends
Under the weight of loneliness, for I have no purpose.
I observe others of my generation and look upon them with sympathy
for they appear so shallow and lacking of understanding.
They seem to go through life intent upon their purpose and not really living.
But Hold! a great and wondrous thought has leaped into my mind,
For as I go through my life without meaning, I try my best to spread
happiness and joy to others, though there is none for me—
And I give the illusion of being a carefree clown.
My merry laugh, my witty words, seem to infect others, they come to life,
And no longer appear so shallow. They say they envy the happiness I
possess, and which I share with them. And when I see a twinkle in their
eyes, I perceive now I know their reason for living.
Could it be that they feel lost and wretched as I do? Is it possible
That I bring a little meaning to the hearts of those around me,
And for a short time give them purpose?
Could it be possible that they are also sad within, and that I exist to give
them a reason for living?
Alas! I feel the coming of spring in my heart and contentment in my soul.

Hams Meet Again After 27 Long Years

Two radio amateur operators who were last in contact with each other on December 7, 1941, met again on the air on December 7, 1968.

It happened while Coot Coutant, WB6WFI, Johnson Valley, and Ken Johnson, W6FU, Arcadia were talking on the ham bands. Ken mentioned he was looking for Monty Dancroft, W6NJW. Dancroft is engineer for Vince Scully and Gerry Dogget during Dodger broadcasts in the Los Angeles area.

Walt, W6THO, of Alameda, broke in and Monty eventually came on the air. The conversation revealed that Walt and Monty had not been in contact since that dreadful day 27 years earlier, when their conversation on 5 meters was interrupted by the announcement of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Bob Forrester New CB Club President

Bob Forrester is the new president of the Desert EARS CB Club. He was elected at the December meeting held in conjunction with the Christmas party.

Other new officers are Cecil McGee, vice-president; Ruby Piner, treasurer; Bea Roush, secretary; and Ann Hawley, three-year board member.

Stockings and gifts were presented to 25 children. Surprise guests included the Buckhorn family from Long Beach.

CHURCH SERVICES

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mesa Road, Lucerne Valley
Sunday Masses at 8 and 11 a.m.

Rev. Patrick J. Scanlan, Pastor

LANDERS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Off Old Woman Springs Road at the
New Dixie Mine Road in Landers, Calif.

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Worship	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship	6:30 p.m.
Hour of Power Wed. ...	7:00 p.m.

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Executive Editor	MARTHA W. COUTANT
Associate Editor	MARIE STANLEY
Contributing Editor	AILEEN DE VICTORIA
Managing Editor	STANLEY O. COUTANT

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The Old Horned Toad

Great to see Bill Kensinger back at Soggy Dry Lake Glider Port. Bill has retired after 15 years of crop-dusting. Glider tow service is available at the air port, and fly-ins are welcome. Bill plans to expand the service at the airport to include hangars, gasoline, and food services.

The December Bazaar raised about \$150 for the Johnson Valley Improvement Association. It is hoped that it will become an annual event.

Joyous moment: When the box boy leaves a four-inch space hip-high between the row of baskets and waits for you to squeeze through—and you make it!

Don't forget the dime-a-dip January 4 at 5 p.m. in the community building in Johnson Valley. Everyone welcome.

Why spend time moving furniture and cleaning and polishing and dusting? Ease off! Give it away! Furniture and games are needed for the new teen center in Landers. A building has been donated, and members are painting and refurbishing. All those from 13 to 19 years of age are welcome to the club. See Jim Kirkendall if you have anything to offer.

Also, Marion Page lost everything in the fire at his home. He plans to rebuild immediately, and upon completion, he'll need to refurnish his house. Having no place to store things, Marion can't accept anything until the place is built. So start sorting and we'll try to let you know when he is ready to move in.

Neighbors are also contributing to construction costs, and a Marion Page Building Fund has been established by the Johnson Valley Improvement Association, to be used as construction proceeds. Many have also pledged time to help with the actual construction. See Elmer Jacobs if you have a donation of time or money, but hang on to furniture, dishes, etc., until you get the word.



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CB Ch. 9

Don't forget the DIME-A-DIP

Serving at 5 p.m. January 4

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Larrea Road

EVERYONE WELCOME



Tall in the saddle he rode along:
Tall in the saddle he sang his song:
Tall in the saddle he rode away:
Those saddle sores! A-lack-a-day!

—T. B. Thomson

The DESERT WHISPERS

Star Route 2, Box 804

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